

**Part 781-01:**  
**RHODE ISLAND STATE ENERGY PLAN GOALS**

Specific goals and objectives are necessary to plan and implement energy policies and guiding principles. These goals are not necessarily presented in order of importance or priority.

**Goal 1: Energy Efficiency and Conservation**

*Recognition that energy is a resource too valuable to waste and should be produced and used efficiently to extend the resource, protect public health, and sustain the environment.*

The advocacy of energy efficient technologies and energy conservation will promote other goals and objectives under topics as diverse as maintaining economic competitiveness and protecting the environment. Helping to “save what we already have,” energy efficiency and conservation will also serve the cause of energy security and provide a bridge to a future where renewable resources play a larger role.

**Goal 2: Economic Competitiveness**

*A strengthened competitive posture for Rhode Island commerce and industry through access to adequate, affordable and reliable supplies of energy in all sectors of use, including transportation.*

Affordable and reliable energy is essential to maintain the competitiveness of Rhode Island’s business and industry in national and global markets, for sound and sustained economic growth and development.

**Goal 3: Environmental Quality and Public Health**

*Setting and achieving objectives that preserve or enhance environmental quality while ensuring adequate energy supplies.*

Enhancement and conservation of our natural resources, and reasonable and responsible mitigation of the impact of energy development and use on Rhode Island's land, water and air, must be recognized as basic responsibilities. This includes reducing greenhouse gas emissions and their contribution to climate change by promoting energy efficiency, energy conservation, and alternative energy use. Energy derived from fossil fuels is the major anthropogenic contributor to greenhouse gas emissions.

#### **Goal 4: Energy Security**

*The attainment of a fuel mix that is reasonably reliable and that satisfies economic need.*

Rhode Island's indigenous energy resources are very limited and we are dependent on outside supplies. This is particularly true for petroleum products, which are subject to the supply disruptions and price shocks that accompany twists and turns in world politics. Petroleum products account for over 50 percent of the state's total primary energy consumption, compared to a figure nationally of 40 percent. We need to provide more of a mix of fuels to power our economy, with a state policy that reflects the supply, deliverability, price and environmental risks of each energy supply system.

#### **Goal 5: Transportation**

*Energy-efficient and environmentally-friendly options for the movement of people and goods.*

State energy policy must strive to diversify modes of transportation as well as fuel mix to reduce air and water pollution. This means increasing the use of alternative fuels, promoting public transit and fuel-less modes of transportation (e.g., walking and bicycling), and encouraging bulk freight handling systems (barge and rail).

#### **Goal 6: Energy Efficiency and Accessibility for Low-Income Households**

*More energy-efficient homes in low-income communities.*

Rhode Island is a recognized leader in energy conservation. Lower-income families have benefited from weatherization programs and energy audits. The state should strive to make homes in low-to-moderate-income neighborhoods more energy efficient by providing access to conservation technology through a partnership of government, energy providers, and consumers.

#### **Goal 7: Energy Education**

*Energy education available at all levels, beginning in grade school.*

The world of energy is no longer a field only for specialists, but a participatory world in which all citizens have to make informed choices about how energy is supplied and how they choose to use it.

## **Goal 8: Renewable Resources**

*The development of permanently sustainable energy resources that are environmentally benign and economically feasible.*

To ensure that future generations are not left a legacy of vanished or depleted resources, Rhode Island must promote and develop permanently sustainable energy resources within the state and the Northeast region, while encouraging efficient use of fossil fuels and conservation.